

Curriculum Proposal to the Parents of Terrell County Students

My proposal, through a combination of federal, state, and private grants, is to equip every child, who attends Terrell County schools, starting in the sixth grade with a tablet computer. This tablet will be maintained by the student with upgrades, if the funds are available, provided by the county. Upon graduation the tablet would become the property of the student. Transfers in and out of the district would be handled on a case by case basis.

Terrell County is a rural Title I low socioeconomic district. In today's high technology society the acquisition of information is very critical to a student's success. Also I think that equipping the students in our schools fits in nicely with the middle and high school mission statement:

Terrell Middle and High Schools are committed to inspiring all students to strive for academic excellence in a technologically informed age in order to achieve ultimately their potential roles as responsible citizens.

The immediate benefit that I see to this is that our students, many who are far from a media center, with information to help them with their learning. Each tablet can be loaded with links to the Georgia Performance Standards for each content area. Also sites like Khan Academy provide excellent online remediation/enrichment and most of them are totally free. The nature of the internet causes it to be pretty much up to date. Text books usually are not and in today's climate of depressed property values I think that our district could get more bang for the buck by going 100% digital.

Most publishers could be convinced to digitize, if not already done so, the texts that we currently use. It would be much cheaper for our district to buy site licenses than textbooks. Also any discrepancies could automatically be corrected by the publisher while texts would have to be collected up and so forth.

The projected costs of this proposal aren't as expensive as it may seem. During the 2013-2014 school year we had on average 110 sixth graders. Assuming a tablet cost of \$200, this doesn't figure in the discount the district would receive, we would be looking at about \$25000 yearly to sustain the program. Again keep in mind that I am using individual cost per tablet to arrive at my numbers. The district, by buying in bulk and being an educational public institution, would receive a much lower discount.

Much attention has lately been giving to the importance of STEM education. I humbly submit that ensuring that our students have a tablet to facilitate the learning of the sciences is the first and most important step in that direction.